

## Post-July 23-30, 2012, Webinar (Assessment Transition)

### Questions for PDE/Dr. Rich Maraschiello

- 1) Is the decision on which test window and mode to select for Winter (Wave1 or 2) a district-wide decision or does each school make a determination?
  - a. Districts will select the testing wave for each subject during the September 10-14 Enrollment Window using the eDIRECT Enrollment System. All schools within the district must test each subject during the same district-selected testing wave.
- 2) Can students retest in multiple windows throughout the year? Example, student failed test in Winter 2012-2013 retakes in Spring 2012-2013? Fails again can retest in Winter 2013-2014 and Spring of 2013-2014?
  - a. Students are allowed to retest the Keystone Exams during the same school year if they did not score proficient or advanced. Students retaking during the spring 2013 administration must test online, since sites will not have the results in time to order paper materials for those students.
- 3) Explain how banked scores work with attribution...example 9th grader enrolled at school A scores non-proficient, enrolls at school B and passes in 10th grade, then enrolls in School C as 11th grader. Which school gets the score? A, B, C?
  - a. Student scores will be attributed to the school they are attending at the time of AYP reporting (grade 11). All student demographic information will be taken from a PIMS file at the time of AYP reporting. In this scenario the student would be attributed to school C.
- 4) What counts as an 11th grader for AYP purposes? How do you calculate the denominator? Using grade level in PIMS? If so, is that taken from the Oct 1st. snapshot?
  - a. Grade level is determined based on student's grade level in PIMS.
- 5) Can you share the template or data layout required to upload student data to eDIRECT for keystones? Does this replace PIMS? How does this affect PIMS reporting snapshots? Will there be multiple PIMS snapshots for precode labels?
  - a. The upload file layout will be posted to eDIRECT. The upload file does not replace PIMS. It provides districts an opportunity to load student information into the eDIRECT system between PIMS loads.

- b. There will not be multiple PIMS snapshots for precode labels. Students missing from the September 25, 2012, PIMS snapshot will need to be entered into the eDIRECT system by using the manual upload or by uploading a file. Districts will have the ability to manually upload students or use the upload file process during the October 8-19 Test Setup Window.
- 6) In 2012-13 (and beyond), are 11<sup>th</sup> graders allowed multiple attempts at Keystones in one year, e.g., student takes the test in winter (wave 1 or 2) and again in spring (wave 3)? Then, the best score is used for calculating the AYP. Or, an 11<sup>th</sup> grader in 2012-13 is allowed only ONE attempt in each subject?
  - a. Students are allowed to retest the Keystone Exams during the same school year if they did not score proficient or advanced. Students retesting during the spring 2013 administration must test online, since sites will not have the results in time to order paper materials for those students.
  - b. The student's best overall score will be used. The student's best overall score is a combination of both module 1 and module 2. The best overall score may be derived from multiple test administrations.
- 7) Can a 10<sup>th</sup> grader who has completed Algebra 1 last year take the Algebra 1 Keystone this year, or should it be taken ONLY by those students who are taking the course in the CURRENT year?
  - a. 10<sup>th</sup> graders who completed Algebra I last year can take the Algebra I Keystone this year or they can wait until their junior year.
  - b. Students who are currently enrolled in a corresponding course are required to take the Keystone Exams, regardless of grade.
  - c. Students in grade 11 are required to take the Keystone Exams for AYP purposes. PDE strongly recommends that grade 11 students test during the winter administration.
  - d. Students in grades 9-10 will be required to take the Keystone Exams prior to or during their grade 11 year for AYP purposes. PDE strongly recommends that grade 9-10 students take the Keystone Exams during the winter 2012/2013 administration (provided the student has completed the corresponding course).
- 8) As you know, in SDP, leveling takes place 10 days after school opens (September 7). In 2012-13, this will happen ~ September 21. The classes, especially in high schools, begin to settle down after this date. Therefore, any data upload after this date will have some semblance to the real students to be found in schools in December. Therefore, how late can SDP submit our pre-code file for the December-January testing windows? Similarly, October upload of student data for generating labels for spring test will be pretty meaningless. How late can we submit the pre-code file for the spring administration?

- a. Districts must provide enrollment counts for the winter 2012/2013 testing window during the September 10-14 Enrollment Window via the eDIRECT Enrollment System. Districts must also assign students to paper or online test sessions during the October 8 -19 Keystone Test Setup Window. Students must be designated as paper testers in eDIRECT by October 19 to receive precode labels.
    - Districts that do not upload students into PIMS during the September 12-25 collection window can upload a student file directly to the eDIRECT system during the October 8-19 Keystone Test Setup Window.
  - b. Districts must provide enrollment counts for the spring 2013 testing window during the October 15-26 Enrollment Window via the eDIRECT Enrollment System. Districts must also assign students to paper or online test sessions during the March 4-15 Keystone Test Setup Window. Students must be designated as paper testers in eDIRECT by March 15 to receive precode labels.
    - Districts that do not upload students into PIMS during the February 18-26 collection window can upload a student file directly to the eDIRECT system during the March 4-15 Test Setup Window.
- 9) Since there is no history of these tests, the only calculation that can be done to calculate the performance will be the proficiency percentage, and PDE will propose some (realistic) %s in math and reading to the USDOE. Is this correct?
- a. Yes.
- 10) Will the waves 1 and 2 results be used to establish these % proficient scores or are these already established? If so, what were these proficiency cut scores based on? Will there be a steady increase of these yearly target percentages over the years (as is the currently the case for AYP), and how will the steps (increases) be determined?
- a. The results from the 2011 administration will be used to determine the AMOs.
  - b. Percent proficient scores are already established. Data from the 2011 administration was used.
  - c. PDE has not yet determined what the AMOs will be. These will be approved by USDOE.
- 11) How is the online testing process supposed to work from start to finish?
- a. Information regarding online testing procedures can be found on DRC's eDIRECT site located at: <https://pa.drcedirect.com/>. DRC will also provide training in the next few months.

b. Tutorials:

- Go to PA eDIRECT: <https://pa.drctdirect.com/>
- Under Test Setup on the left navigation pane, click on General Information
- Go to the Test Tutorials tab.
- Click on the play button to view the tutorials

c. Online Tools Training (OTT):

- Go to PA eDIRECT: <https://pa.drctdirect.com/>
- From the bottom of the splash page, select Online Tools Training Software Download – Windows or Mac
- Follow the onscreen instructions to start the OTT. (Note that the user name and password is contained right in the log in screen.)

d. 2012-2013 Online Testing Info:

- Go to PA eDIRECT: <https://pa.drctdirect.com/>
- Click on Documents on the left navigation pane.
- Select 2012-2013 General Testing Information from the Administration drop down. Keep Document Type as All.
- Click on the PDF, Excel, PP or Word icon to view the documents.

e. Districts will utilize eDIRECT to set up students in online test sessions beginning October 8, and continue to do so throughout the winter testing window. A student must be in an online test session to test online.

f. Once the testing window is open, districts will be able to create and print test tickets for all students testing online. The students will use their test tickets to log-in to INSIGHT. Upon log-in, online testing students will be able to access the Keystone Exam.

12) When and how do we have to decide who is testing online?

a. For the winter 2012/2013 Keystone Exams, districts must provide counts for online and paper testers during the September 10-14 Enrollment Window via the eDIRECT Enrollment System. At this time, districts are only required to provide the counts for paper and online testers; student information will not be collected.

- b. Students must be placed into paper test sessions during the October 8-19 Test Setup Window to receive precode labels. Districts are able to place students into an online test session from October 8 through the end of the testing window.

13) If paper tests are ordered and in schools, can the decision still be made to test online?

- a. No. A student placed into an online test session will not be provided a precode label, or any paper materials. If the school has other students assigned to paper tests, they may use their overage booklets to move the student to paper testing. If a school tests 100% of its students online, it will not receive any paper materials. In this scenario, the school will need to request the booklets via DRC's additional materials request process. These students will be required to use a District/School label and bubble demographic information. Note: Overages will be limited, and DRC cannot guarantee that paper materials will be available for all students switching from online to paper.

14) If we designate someone as testing online, will paper copies be sent anyway as a backup?

- a. No. A student placed into an online test session will not be provided a precode label, or any paper materials. If the school has other students assigned to paper tests, they may use their overage booklets to move the student to paper testing. If a school tests 100% of its students online, it will not receive any paper materials. In this scenario, the school will need to request the booklets via DRC's additional materials request process. These students will be required to use a District/School label and bubble demographic information. Note: Overages will be limited, and DRC cannot guarantee that paper materials will be available for all students switching from online to paper.

15) Do test tickets work at a different site? Example: Can a student in school A take his/her test online at school b (since school B has more computers)?

- a. The test ticket is not restricted by site. A student in school A can physically test at school B.

16) Is there training on how to use the online test platform?

- a. Information regarding online testing procedures can be found on DRC's eDIRECT site located at: <https://pa.drccedirect.com/> under General Information Documents. DRC will also provide training in the next few months.
- b. DRC's INSIGHT Testing Engine will be released on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Districts are encouraged to download INSIGHT and view the online tutorials at their convenience. Districts should also have students take practice tests, and utilize the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) to get familiar with INSIGHT.

- c. There are several features of DRC's INSIGHT system that ensure test security, including:
    - Data Encryption
    - Secure access
    - Desktop lockdown
    - Inactivity Timeout Feature
  - d. Detailed information about online test security will be contained in the Handbook for Assessment Coordinators for each administration. Additionally, a copy of the 2012-2013 security policy will be posted to eDIRECT once completed.
- 17) When will the sample items be available for the new common core-aligned PSSA for grades 3-8, including for the Writing test that's being field tested for 3-5 then 6-8.
- a. PDE will post item samplers for grade 3-5 to the PDE website by April 2013.
  - b. PDE will post item samplers for grade 6-8 to the PDE website by April 2014.
- 18) If a student previously took the Keystone Exams and earned a proficient score are they able to retake the Keystone Exams?
- a. PDE prohibits students who earned a proficient or advanced score during a previous administration from retaking the Keystone Exams.
- 19) Will districts receive lists of who was proficient on the 2011 keystones or do districts need to review data on our own to make that determination?
- a. DRC will provide a file listing the students who scored proficient as 9<sup>th</sup>-graders during the 2011 Keystone Exams. These students, who will be 11<sup>th</sup>-graders in the 2012-13 school year, will be attributed to the district who reported them during the spring 2012 PIMS collection, not necessarily the district that tested the student in 2011. Districts may also contact DRC's Pennsylvania Project Team at [PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com) or (800) 451-7849 to inquire about a student's past performance.
- 20) How many times will a student's score count for a district/building for AYP purposes?
- a. A student's score will count once. If a student tests the Keystone Exam multiple times, the student's best score will be used for AYP when that student reaches grade 11.

- 21) Is there a limit on the number of times a student can take the Keystone Exams?
- a. Students who fail to score proficient in the Keystone Exams are allowed to retake the Keystone Exams as many times as they wish through their grade 11 year.
- 22) Will grade 11 students who take the summer 2013 Keystone Exams count towards AYP?
- a. Students in grade 11 must test during either the Winter 2012/2013 Keystone Exams administration or during the Spring 2012/2013 Keystone Exams administration due to the federal requirements for AYP results release.
- 23) If a student is not proficient, do they have to retake the entire Keystone (both modules) or do they retake one of the two modules?
- a. Students are not required to retake both modules; however, PDE strongly recommends they do. If a student is not proficient, and earned a high score in module 1, but did poorly on module 2; it is possible for the student to earn a proficient score by earning a higher score for module 1, and scoring the same on module 2.
- 24) Is a student in grade 12 required to retest if they did not perform at proficient?
- a. No. A student will be counted for AYP purposes only during their grade 11 year. Retesting the student in grade 12 will not be counted for AYP.
- 25) Is the online test available on iPads?
- a. DRC's INSIGHT Test Engine is not available on tablets at this time. System requirements can be viewed on DRC's eDIRECT site located at: <https://pa.drcedirect.com/>.
- 26) If Algebra and Literature are the only subjects that will count toward AYP - what is the purpose of testing in Biology?
- a. NCLB mandates all students take a high-stakes high school science test. The Biology Keystone satisfies this requirement.
- 27) If Literature content is taught in 11th grade, can a school decide to administer in the spring of the junior year (12-13)?
- a. Students in grade 11 should take the Keystone Exams during the winter administration provided they have completed the corresponding course. Grade 11 students who are enrolled in a corresponding course must wait until the spring administration to complete the Keystone Exams unless the grade 11 student is in block scheduling and taking the course in the first block.

28) How many minutes does each keystone test take?

- a. The Keystone Exams are an untimed test. Each module will take an estimate of 90 minutes.

29) If a student scores proficient or advanced on all three tests prior to 11th grade, then they are done with the keystones? They are only required to pass each test once?

- a. Students who score proficient or advanced will have their scores banked until their grade 11 year. Students with banked proficient or advanced scores are not permitted to retest the Keystone Exams.

30) If students take the Keystone online, will districts get results quicker than paper/pencil tests? Will they get them in time to be able to retest a specific module in spring?

- a. Scores will be delivered for students who test online and paper at the same time. Winter 2012/2013 scores will be delivered in time for districts to retest during the spring 2013 administration. Students retesting during the spring 2013 administration must test online, since sites will not have the results in time to order materials for those students.

31) Suppose I have students entering 11th grade who have not taken biology or algebra (yet), can they take the Keystone during the spring window considering they would be enrolling into those courses this year?

- a. Yes.

32) We have gifted students in the class of 2017 and 2018 who already took Algebra I. Do they need to take an Algebra I Keystone for graduation requirements since they already took the course prior to Keystone testing beginning?

- a. No. Since no exam was available when the student took the course the student is exempt from the graduation requirement.

33) Are both technology training dates required in August or is it one or the other?

- a. DRC is offering two training sessions to provide a convenient time for everyone to attend. You are only required to attend one of these WebEx training sessions. These sessions, just as all training sessions, will be recorded and posted on eDIRECT.



- 34) What if we have 11th graders in biology but 90% have taken it in 9th or 10th grade prior to this year, can the 90% not enrolled take the test in the winter and then in the spring the remaining students enrolled in biology take it?
- a. PDE strongly recommends all students who have previously completed a corresponding course take the Keystone Exam during the winter 2012-2013 administration. Students who have not yet completed the corresponding course can take the Keystone Exam during the spring.
- 35) If the school decides to go online for the PSSAs, can an IEP team determine that a student is to take it paper-pencil? Can we order only a few paper-pencil?
- a. A school is not required to test 100% paper/pencil or online. Schools may break up their students into paper/pencil or online test sessions as they wish.
- 36) Are students in grade 8 required to take both the PSSA and Keystone Exams?
- a. Students in grade 8 are required to take the PSSA. Students who are in grade 8 and are enrolled in a corresponding Keystone course during the 2012-2013 school year are required to take the Keystone Exams. Some students will take both Keystone and PSSA during the 2012-2013 school year. Students in grade 8 who have previously completed a corresponding Keystone course are strongly recommended to take the Keystone Exam during the winter 2012/2013 administration.
- 37) Can the two modules for a single subject be taken over multiple waves?
- a. No. A student may take modules over multiple days, but both modules must be taken during the same testing wave.
- 38) When can we communicate the transition plan to our students and their families?
- a. Districts may start communications right away. Parent information will be posted and sent to LEAs for distribution.
- 39) If I anticipate the need to retest grade 11 students who are not proficient during the spring 2013, but I do not want to retest them online, what should I do?
- a. Districts who want to retest students who do not score proficient should order extra paper materials during the October 8-19 Enrollment Window. Districts will need to estimate the quantities for these retesters since exact numbers needed will not be known.
- 40) Are PASA students required to take the Keystone Exams?
- a. No.

- 41) If a low performing student doesn't take Algebra 1 until his senior year, will that student still be expected to take the Keystone for Algebra 1 during the junior year?
- a. Yes. Students are required to take all three Keystone Exams before or during their grade 11 year.
- 42) For the 3rd, 4th, 5th grade Writing Field Test, do we have to take on all grades in all schools, or can we pick and choose?
- a. Schools will receive writing field test materials for all applicable grades within a school. PDE strongly encourages full participation at all public schools; however, each district has the final determination regarding participation.
- 43) Are Special Education students also required to take keystones?
- a. Yes. Only Special Education students who participate in the PASA are exempt from the Keystone Exam requirements.
- 44) How will nonpublic students be able to access the Keystone Exams?
- a. Currently, non-public schools and testing sites that do not have a state-issued Administrative Unit Number (AUN) can only participate via paper/pencil. Additionally, students must have a valid PAsecureID to test online.
- 45) How will students who in the past were excused from the PSSA for medical reasons be handled with Keystone Exams?
- a. The “medical emergency” exemption applies to AYP results only. If a student is absent because of a medical emergency, he/she should simply participate in the next Keystone offering. However, if an 11<sup>th</sup>-grade student is scheduled to take the Keystone Exams **for the first time** in the spring of his/her 11<sup>th</sup>-grade year (i.e., the student has no prior scores), and the student experiences a medical emergency during that spring testing window, his/her score and participation would be excluded from AYP.
- 46) For the PSSA, students who take the test at a residential facility, the scores count toward the student's home school district. Will this be the same for the keystones?
- a. Yes. A student's scores will be attributed to the district of residence that is provided at the time the student is included in AYP reporting (grade 11). DRC will use PIMS data and the online attribution system to ensure that all students tested at alternate education facilities are attributed to a public school district.

47) For residential facilities, we don't always know the number of students we will have during the testing windows, let alone, the names of the students. Do we have to have official names to include, or can we guessimate the number of students and just deal with filling in the bubbles?

- a. Residential facilities should estimate their enrollments counts during the established eDIRECT enrollment windows. If the residential facility is not able to move student records into paper or online test sessions (because of the transitory nature of the student population), the facility will receive paper materials in accordance with the estimated enrollment counts and will need to bubble the booklets.

48) Can the online testing be used by cyber schools or do the tests need to be given in a computer lab setting?

Cyber charter school students may test online or via paper/pencil. In both cases, the cyber charter school is responsible for procuring a physical location (e.g., IU, district/school) in which students test. If the cyber charter chooses to test online, it will be responsible for coordinating the installation of the software on computers on which the students test at the location. Cyber charter school students are NOT permitted to test at home.

- a. Cyber charter schools are held to the same schedule and test administration policies as brick-and-mortar entities.

49) Is PDE planning to create alternative assessments for the Keystone Exams?

- a. No. Students with severe cognitive disabilities will continue to take the PASA.

50) What does supplemental instruction need to look like? What are the requirements?

- a. This is a local decision. Chapter 4 does not specify what the requirements are or what supplemental instruction is to look like.

51) Can the subject area teacher proctor his/her own class for the exam?

- a. It is recommended that the subject area teacher not proctor his/her own class.

52) Is there a fee for unused tests?

- a. No.

- 53) As a full-time CTC, we serve students from several districts. If some of the PT students are enrolled or previously enrolled in a Keystone course, and the districts do not conduct the Wave 1 or Wave 2 assessment on the same day, when should the CTC schedule the Keystone Exam for those students, as well as for the FT students also participating in the Keystone Exams?
- a. No. The part time students should be taking the exams at their home district/school.
- 54) PSSA-M won't be administered anymore because of lessons learned from a test design standpoint. Do these lessons learned now apply to both the computerized and paper/pencil versions?
- a. We did apply universal design principals to both the paper/pencil and the online test formats.
- 55) Are Project Based Assessments (PBAs) simply a tool for graduation purposes and therefore not going to be implemented until 2017?
- a. PBAs are an option for meeting state graduation requirements beginning with the class of 2017.
- 56) Right now, the tests are offered both online and paper/pencil. Will this always be the case, or will the tests eventually only be offered online?
- a. PDE is sensitive to the needs of districts/schools in this regard and will continue to provide both online and paper/pencil in the foreseeable future.
- 57) What are the contingency plans in case USDOE does not approve Keystones and we have to administer an 11th grade PSSA in spring 2013?
- a. PDE does not anticipate a challenge with the Keystone being approved as a measure for accountability. Other states have had end-of-course exams approved for accountability.
- 58) How will AYP be determined for buildings where there are grades 7-12 when the AMO for 11th grade is at one percentage and the AMO for grades 7-8 is at a different level?
- a. PDE will propose a plan to USDOE that utilizes weighted averages.
- 59) Will we be without PVAAS data for our high schools during the transition? If so, for how long?
- a. PDE will work with the PVAAS contractor to determine if PVAAS data can be calculated using results from a test other than the PSSA.